

Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2023

10:00 am

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Commissioners present: Vice President Thomas P. Murtaugh and Member David S. Byers.
Also present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Jennifer Weston, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary Samantha Perez.
Absent: President Tracy A. Brown.

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Vice President Murtaugh called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from the Special Meeting on Friday, April 28, 2023, and the Regular Meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023.
 - Commissioner Byers moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- III. **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Commissioner's Assistant Paula Bennett presented and recommended:

The claims from May 4, 2023, through May 15, 2023, were recommended for approval without exception.

 - Commissioner Byers moved to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- IV. **PRESENTATION OF PAYROLL** – Commissioner's Assistant Paula Bennett presented and recommended:

The payroll from May 12, 2023, was recommended for approval without exception.

 - Commissioner Byers moved to approve the payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- V. **AREA PLAN** – *Continued from May 1, 2023, Meeting:*
 - A. **ORDINANCE 2023-11-CM, Z-2888** - Trinitas Development

A. Attorney Ryan Munden, *representing the Petitioner*, stated a request by the Petitioner has been made to continue the hearing to the June 5, 2023, Commissioner's meeting.

 - Commissioner Byers moved to continue the ordinance to the June 5th meeting as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- VI. **HIGHWAY** – Executive Director Stewart Kline presented and recommended:

400 S / 500 E Project

A. Executive Director Kline stated this is an Addendum to Right-of-Entry Grant Parcel 1 which clarifies the conditions the County holds over the property.

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the addendum as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

VII. SURVEYOR – County Surveyor Zach Beasley presented and recommended:

A. ORDINANCE 2023-08-CM, Vacate a Platted Easement

- Commissioner Byers moved to consider ORDINANCE 2023-08-CM, second by Commissioner Murtaugh.

Doug Masson, *Tippecanoe County Attorney*, advised this is to vacate a drainage easement which is part of an overall plan to shift the drainage easement to open the current spot for better development.

Zach Beasley, *County Surveyor*, advised this is specifically the property at 5750 Augusta Blvd. and is for vacation and relocation of the drainage easement.

Attorney Masson added this was recommended by the drainage board and received their recommendation so there should not be any conflicts.

Kevin Riley, *with Reiling, Teder and Schrier* representing the Petitioner, stated this does meet all the requirements of the statute.

Vice President Murtaugh asked if there was any public comment, and then called for the vote:

- Auditor Weston recorded the vote:

Commissioner Byers Y

Commissioner Murtaugh Y

Ordinance 2023-08-CM passed with a vote of 2-0 on first reading.

- Commissioner Byers moved to suspend the rules for a potential second reading for ORDINANCE 2023-08-CM, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Byers moved to hear ORDINANCE 2023-08-CM on second reading, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

Vice President Murtaugh asked if there was any public comment, and then called for the vote:

- Auditor Weston recorded the vote:

Commissioner Murtaugh Y

Commissioner Byers Y

Ordinance 2023-08-CM passed with a vote of 2-0 on second and final reading.

VIII. AUDITOR – Auditor Weston presented and recommended:

Tippecanoe County Employee Salary Estimates for 2024

A. Auditor Weston presented an estimated impact of various employee salary increases for 2024. She discussed the possible increase estimates from 1%, 3% and 5% and how those would impact the various funds that pay for salaries and wages. Auditor Weston added the General Fund Property Tax Levy is based on a six-year non-farm income growth and expects an increase in the growth quotient to at least 5.25%, provided an estimated increase in the General fund Levy of approximately \$1.5 million. In addition, interest earnings are expected to be \$1.5 million higher for 2023 than anticipated. Also, unfilled, and vacant positions were considered and a factor for that was applied going into the budget this year. Auditor Weston believes there will be about \$500,000 added to the cash balance by the end of the year but added the County has seen court costs and secure detention costs increase. She stated overall there is \$3.5 million dollars to work with plus the \$4 million that is unappropriated this

year. She cautions that Commissioners have new position requests totaling \$1.4 million for this coming year and so any changes made could look different next year.

Vice President Murtaugh asked when these recommendations need to be submitted and Auditor Weston replied they are due at the next meeting.

- Commissioner Byers moved to take the salary estimates under advisement.

IX. ANIMAL SHELTER – Vice President Murtaugh presented and recommended:

Construction Contracts

A. Best Lafayette Lawn Care

- Landscaping - \$50,000.00

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

B. Big Ben Builders, Inc.

- General Trades - \$1,512,400.00

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

C. Lee Company, Inc.

- Millwork / Casework - \$88,450.00

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

D. Wabash Valley Exteriors, LLC

- Roofing - \$97,925.00

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

X. GRANTS – Grant Facilitator Sharon Hutchison presented and recommended:

Permission to Apply for Grants:

A. For the Sheriff Department, from the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, to assist with funding for 10 additional SROs in Tippecanoe County Schools.

Vice President Murtaugh asked if there was available funding for all 10 positions and Grant Facilitator Sharon Hutchinson stated the County was allowed to ask for 20% of the current staff.

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve applying for the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

Permission to Accept Grants:

A. For the Prosecutor, in the amount of \$391,014 from FSSA, for the Adult Protective Services Grant to cover 2023-2024 activities for the coming year.

- Commissioner Byers moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Murtaugh. Motion carried.

XI. UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS

- None

XII. REPORTS ON FILE

- Accounts Payable, Mail, and Duplications April 2023 Report
- Building Commission Permits April 2023 Report
- Clerk April 2023 Report
- Rural Transportation Q1 January - March 2023 Report
- Treasurer April 2023 Report
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (WHRCC) May 2023 Meeting Minutes & Financial Report

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

Commissioner Byers moved to adjourn. Vice President Murtaugh adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE



Tracy A. Brown, President

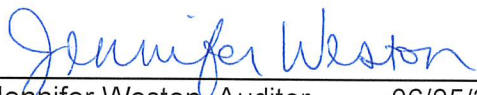


Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice-President



David S. Byers, Member

ATTEST:



Jennifer Weston, Auditor 06/05/2023

Minutes prepared by Samantha Perez, Recording Secretary